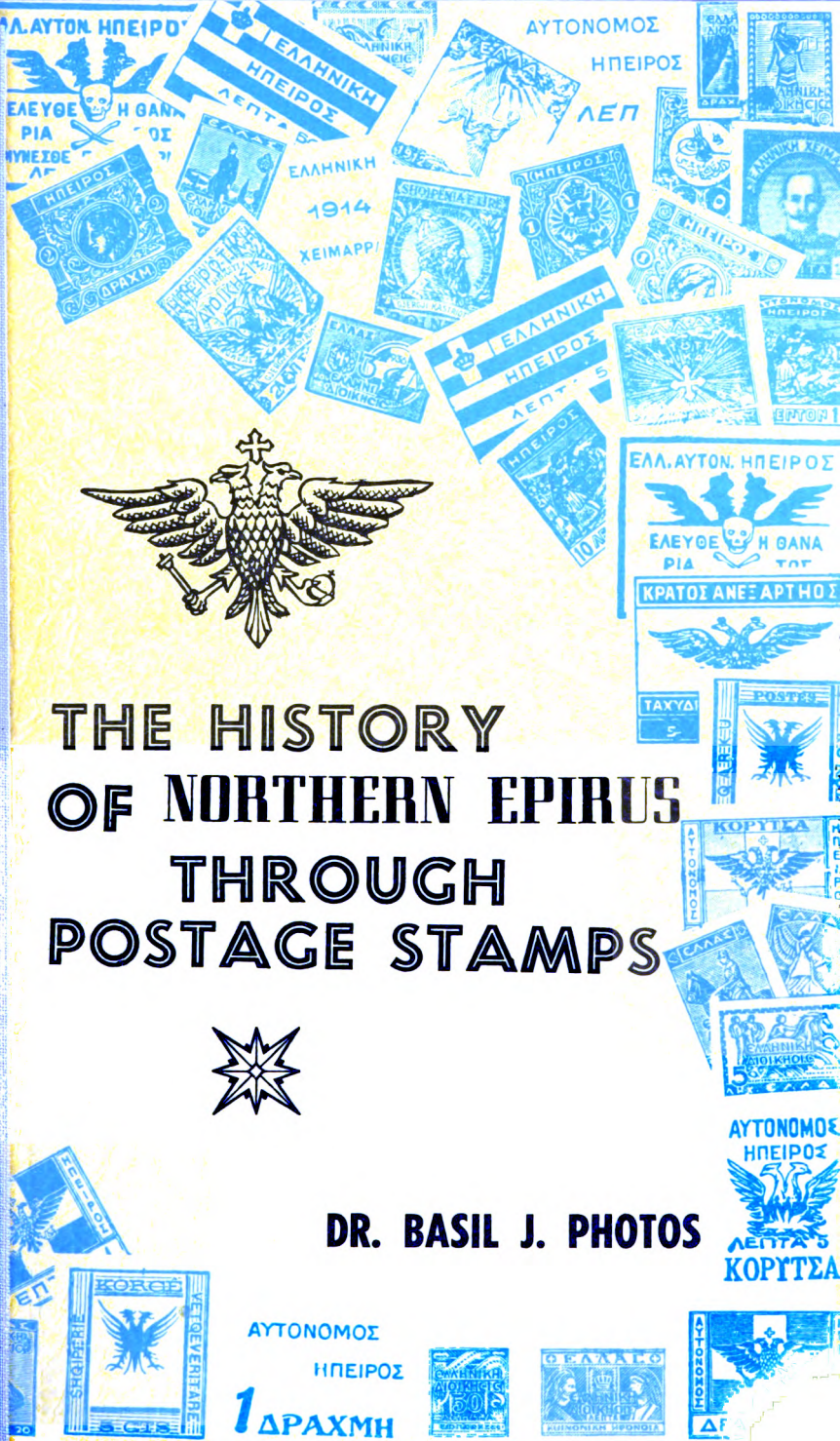


# THE HISTORY OF NORTHERN EPIRUS THROUGH POSTAGE STAMPS



DR. BASIL J. PHOTOS



## U.S. SENATE RESOLUTIONS

**(Senate Resolution 324)** - Introduced by Senator Lodge, and passed by the Senate unanimously on May 17, 1920.

"Resolved, that it is the sense of the Senate that Northern Epirus (including Corytsa), the Twelve Island of the Aegean, where a strong Greek population predominates, should be awarded by the Peace Conference to Greece and become incorporated in the Kingdom of Greece."

Congressional Record. Volume 59, Part VB, p. 7100.

**(Senate Resolution 82)** - Submitted by Senator Pepper; referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. March 27 (Legislative day, March 5), 1946, Reported by Mr. Connally, without amendment. Considered and agreed to July 29, 1946.

"Resolved, that it is the sense of the Senate that Northern Epirus (including Corytsa), the Twelve Islands of the Aegean Sea, known as the Dodecanese Islands, where a strong Greek population predominates, should be awarded by the Peace Conference to Greece and become incorporated in the territory of Greece."

Congressional Record. Volume 92, Pages 2644 and 10336.

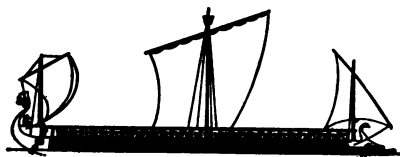
**2**

**Chicago essays on  
World History and Politics**

**2**

# **THE HISTORY OF NORTHERN EPIRUS THROUGH POSTAGE STAMPS**

By DR. BASIL J. PHOTOS



**ARGONAUT, INC.  
CHICAGO - 1963**

111  
0102  
1168  
1517

TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER  
JOHN C. PHOTOS  
1878 - 1963

COPYRIGHT 1963 By ARGONAUT, INC.  
PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA

*Stamps  
List  
2-94-64*

## HISTORY OF NORTHERN EPIRUS THROUGH POSTAGE STAMPS

By BASIL J. PHOTOS

Nearly everyone has had a postage stamp collection or known a collector at one time or another. And it is well known that these stamps can teach one a great deal about geography, history and other miscellaneous information. One of the most interesting examples of history documented by postal issues is in the stamps of Epirus, known variously as Southern Albania or as part of Greece.

The world's most authoritative stamp catalogues (1) give conflicting information on the stamps of Epirus, and it seems that a new catalogue of the issues of Epirus is a definite need for the collector. This will also prove to be of benefit to the historian, for the Epirotic stamps provide a most satisfactory documentation of the modern history of Epirus.

Strangely, in all the historical treatises on Epirus, (2) these stamps have never before been considered as available reference materials.

Epirus existed as an entity from prehistoric times, and it was not until 1913 that any distinction was made between Northern and Southern Epirus. (3) In fact the geographical boundaries of this Greek-populated area had never been disputed until it was chosen as a pawn by the major European powers in their giant chess game of diplomacy. These boundaries extended from the Acroceraunian Mountains (4) on the north to the Ambracian Gulf on the south.

It has been just fifty years since Epirus was liberated from Turkish rule by the Greek army during the first Balkan War. (5) The resultant extension of the Greek frontier to the north, the boundaries of Montenegro southward, and the Serbian limits westward, created a problem for Austria-Hungary and Italy, the primary powers of the Adriatic Sea. (6)

Until this time the seacoast of the eastern Adriatic had been occupied by the declining Ottoman Empire, but Italy and Austria-Hungary now feared that the entrance to the Adriatic would be controlled by the newly expanded Balkan States. Their solution to the problem was simple: they simply created a new and powerless state in the midst of the critical area, thus controlling the entrance to the Adriatic from the Ionian Sea. And so, Albania was born.

It should be noted here that Albanian was the general language of the area, spoken by several nomadic tribes, (7) though with different dialects. The language was also spoken by several residents of the area who were actually Greeks, Serbians, Montenegrans and such. The name of the new area therefore became Albania, (8) and encompassed the Albanian speaking peoples regardless of their ethnic origins. These people had never indicated a desire, or in fact, the ability to become a nation, and it was only at the whim of the European diplomats that they became one.

The nomadic tribes were as primitive in comparison to the surrounding civilizations as certain tribes of the Amazon regions and South Pacific are to the United States and Europe today. Religious and ethnic differences had kept the people of the area divided for years. (9)

However, it is not our intention here to outline the history of Albania, but rather to indicate how the problem of Epirus came into being. A random stroke of the pen of the Italian and Austro-Hungarian diplomats (10) divided Epirus in two parts. Certainly no consideration was given the wishes of the people. (11) The division was made arbitrarily to fulfill a need of the two larger powers. So little thought was given to this division of territory that mountains were blithely divided in half and the Greek residents of Florina and Calpaki were forced to pass through Korytsa and Erseka in Albania when communicating with each other, due to the mountainous lay of the land and the lack of roads. (12) In short, no natives of the area were happy over the division.

(13) The nomadic Albanians were now limited as to where they might wander and the Greeks of Northern Epirus were separated from their neighbors in Southern Epirus.

In December, 1913, the ambassadors of the European Powers (Great Britain, France, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Germany) proclaimed at Florence the creation of an Albanian State. In this proclamation the northern part of Epirus was called Southern Albania for the first time. (14) The Epirots, who were not willing to be called Albanians, selected the name Northern Epirus to identify their area. (15) Until this time the Greek army was still occupying Epirus. The European powers were insistent that they evacuate the area to be incorporated into Albania, and threatened to take away the newly liberated Greek Islands of the Aegean Sea, if Greece did not withdraw her troops. (16) The Greek Prime Minister was forced to acquiesce because without these Aegean islands, Greece is in constant peril. But the inhabitants of Northern Epirus, Greeks by tradition (although often Albanian-speaking) revolted, with the assistance of certain clans of the Christian southern Albanian tribes, and formed a provisional government. (17) A volunteer army was created (18) and the autonomous state of Epirus came into being in early 1914. (19) It was this state which issued the postage stamps inscribed "Hellenic Epirus", "Autonomous Epirus" and "Epirus". (20) At first they overprinted Turkish and Albanian stamps in stock and later began to print their own.

The Great Powers were now at a loss as to how to combat this new state which they believed to be contrary to their interests. Their first move was to send the army of the newly elected king of Albania, Wilhelm of Wied. (21) but they were repeatedly defeated. Finally it was decided "to settle matters by means of a treaty" and the diplomats met with representatives of the provisional government on the island of Corfu on April 2, 1914. (22) The protocol signed there recognized Epirus as an autonomous state. Further, it provided that Greek

was to be the official language and that the schools should be Greek as well. However, Albanian was not abolished and was still to be taught in the primary schools. (23) This arrangement existed only a few short months, for in October, 1914, England and France, now allies in what was to become the First World War, requested that Greece reannex the district of Northern Epirus to protect Allied interests in the Eastern Adriatic. (24) At this time, bargaining Italy had not yet joined either side, and Austria-Hungary was, of course, in league with Germany. Greece readily annexed the area and the autonomous state of Epirus had no objections inasmuch as this action united it with the rest of Epirus and Greece as it had been before the creation of Albania. One might wonder, (25) why Epirus had not requested this annexation to Greece themselves rather than setting up their own government, but obviously this would have created a vicious circle, for Greece would have been blackmailed by the European powers again and made to evacuate the area once more. It was during this period that the postage stamps were issued which are called "Greek Occupation" stamps. (26) However, "Annexation Issues" is the appropriate term.

In 1916 Italy joined the Allies and an Italian army was sent to occupy Northern Epirus once again ostensibly as a safeguard for the Allies, since Greece still had not proclaimed herself an Ally due to internal dissension. The Greek armies were driven back from Northern Epirus. (27) The Italians were then able to march into Greece proper and occupied the capital of Southern Epirus, Jannina, (28) and finally advanced as far south into Greece as Preveza and the Pindus mountains. With the situation so well in hand, Italy proclaimed Albanian independence under her protection of June 3, 1917. (29) A secret treaty in London in 1915, (30) signed by Italy, partitioned Albania amongst Serbia, Montenegro and Greece and the Italians did not consult the Allies before making this proclamation of independence, despite the fact that it was contrary to the treaty terms.



Betimes, the Allies had landed and established a front at Thessalonike whence French troops were sent to occupy the "Kaza" (similar to a county) of Korytsa in 1916. Thinking along the lines of a peaceful settlement, France proclaimed the independence of the area of Korytsa under her protection. The stamps issued by this independent republic of Korytsa definitely do not belong to Albania at all as listed in the catalogues. (31) It should be noted that they have French values, and that the population of the area used the Albanian southern dialect used on the stamps as a matter of convenience, in addition to Greek. As the Greek political parties resigned their differences and Greece at last was able to side with the Allies, Greek troops regained their control in Macedonia and Epirus and were able to advance again into Northern Epirus. By July, 1917, the Greeks were in a position to negotiate with Italy for the evacuation of Epirus and the Italians gradually withdrew to their original stronghold of Valona.

By the end of the war, Albania had been divided into three parts; Italy occupied Valona and the surrounding territory, France had Korytsa, and Greece was again in control of Epirus. At the Paris Peace Conference (32) the Greeks and Albanians each presented their claims to Epirus, asking for a division along an ethnic frontier. But there was disagreement over this boundary, for Albania claimed nearly all of Epirus, including the southern parts she actually did not want, in order to be able to make concessions which would result in the actual area she wanted. Greece simply claimed that same area which had been taken from her in 1913. (33)

However, the major powers at the Paris Peace Conference were not able to come to any sort of agreement on this problem due to secret treaties, commitments and responsibilities they had contracted during the course of the war, so the question remained unsettled.

On July 29, 1919, an agreement was made between Venizelos of Greece and Tittoni of Italy which favored the Greek claims, in exchange for which Greece made certain concessions to Italy. (34)

This was in contrast to the long-standing Italian policy and when the Tittoni ministry fell, Italy returned to her original position on Albania and Greece still was not awarded Northern Epirus.

The ensuing events are not important here, but suffice it to say that due to Italian support and the reversal of the Venizelos-Tittoni agreement by Count Sforza, Tittoni's successor, Albania was granted Northern Epirus once again as she requested, and so matters stood until 1939.

In this year Fascist Italian troops invaded Albania (35) and overthrew the government of self-proclaimed king, Zog. Having rid Albania of its absolute monarchy, Italy promoted and fostered Albanian nationalism during their occupation. The Albanians had no complaints about the Italian occupation since they were profiting by the improvements (36) in roads and communications created for the Italian army.

When Italy attacked Greece in October, 1940, together with the Albanian army, the Albanians were already celebrating a "Greater Albania" (37) which would encompass Greece. The Greeks however, thought this celebration a bit premature and destroyed the invading forces on Greek soil within Southern Epirus. On November 18, 1940 the Greek army began an attack northward. (38) By the 22nd they reached Korytsa, by the 24th they reached Moschopolis; and on the 30th they reached Pogradets, the stronghold of the Italian-Albanian armies. Thus, at least the eastern half of Northern Epirus was liberated once again. A branch of the Greek army proceeding in a southerly direction reached Premeti on December 4, advanced to Santi Quaranta by the 6th, Delvino on the 7th and on December 8th reached Argyrocastron. They then marched on to Himara (December 23) and reached the border of Klissura and Tepeleni on January 10, 1941. This completed the liberation of the biggest part of Northern Epirus. During this time the Greek government immediately issued postage stamps overprinted "Greek Administration." The exact dates of the taking of each city have been given above because on each of these

days, stamps of each denomination were postmarked and mounted on sheets which have now become collectors items. Though not noted in the catalogues, such sheets should not be separated, for it would decrease their value. These were the last Greek stamps to be issued in Epirus for as the Germans attacked, Greece had to give up her hard-won gains again. When Germany had occupied all of Greece the Italians returned to Northern Epirus and attached it for the third time. (39) At the end of the war when Greece ever patient, presented her claims to Northern Epirus at the Peace Conference again, they were shelved due to Russia's threats, (40) and to date they have not been acted upon, leaving Northern Epirus to exist under a severe Communist Albanian rule.



The Handstamped issue of the Commission of Inquiry at Korytsa. Considered by the Stamp-Catalogues as Albanian Stamp. Cf. note 42.

## HISTORY AND THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S REFERENCE BOOKS

It would appear that most stamp catalogues and reference books were created amidst confusion, for in general they abound in misinformation, at least on the subject of Epirus and its postal issues. It must be assumed that their sources were in error, for surely these misrepresentations could not be intentional.

Below, for instance, is the quotation in its entirety from **Germany and Stamps** by Kent B. Stiles, (41) which is still one of the primary references for the geography of stamps.

"Epirus (from the Greek word meaning "mainland"), a district formerly within Turkish Iannina (Jannina), now belongs in part to Greece and in part to Albania."

"At the beginning of the first Balkan War, Greek troops occupied parts of Turkish terrain, including Epirus; the stamps which the catalog lists (under Greece) under the heading "For use in parts of Turkey occupied by Greece" were used in northern Epirus until Greece (early in 1914) withdrew her troops and northern Epirus established a provisional government and issued definite postal paper. Provisional stamps were printed for use locally in the district called Chimar. Argyrocastro (q.v.) received definitives."

"Listed also under Epirus are stamps which Albania military authorities issued during Albanian occupation of Koritza (q.v.) in March and April of 1914."

"The northern Epirus provisional government collapsed when the Greeks (December, 1914, after the World War had started) occupied the territory imposing upon the people the "Issued Under Greek Occupation" stamps listed in the catalog under Epirus. Under the pressure of World War developments the Greek occupation ended in 1916, and northern Epirus was (1920) ceded to Albania. The rest of Epirus belongs to Greece."

This information is confusing, and, in fact, mostly false from top to bottom. The trusting stamp collector is led astray at the outset when he is told that Epirus lies in what was once Turkish Iannina. Iannina is a Byzantine town which existed long be-

fore the Turkish occupation, and still exists today. The Turks established a large district called Iannina for tax collecting purposes, but there was never an actual geographical division by that name; only a town.

At the beginning of the first Balkan War, Greek troops were not occupying Epirus. They were busily fighting to liberate the area which they succeeded in doing in 1913. Though these troops remained in Epirus, it could hardly be said that they were foreign occupation troops since Epirus was now a part of Greece. This was simply the maintenance of the country's own army in its own territory. Therefore Stiles' nomenclature "Parts of Turkey Occupied by Greece" is quite in error as the area was Greek long before the Turkish Occupation and the Ottoman Empire was, in no way, in possession of this land by the end of the Balkan War.

The reader will now begin to understand why so many dates and historical details were given in the first section of this work. It was explained there how the Greek troops were forced to vacate Epirus and how the provisional government came to be established. In Stiles' next paragraph there is a glaring error. There was never an Albanian occupation of Korytsa up to the time of 1920. (42) As explained earlier, the French occupied the area and granted it its independence. It was under the auspices of the French army that the stamps of Korytsa were issued in 1914 and following years. Next, the provisional government did not "collapse" in 1914, but as we know, Epirus was annexed to Greece at the request of the Allied forces. The stamps which are generally called "Occupation Issues" were simply not so at all, but actually the use of the regular issues of Greece was extended into Northern Epirus and so overprinted. It is possible that some of the philatelic authorities are unable to read Greek, in which case they may have reached misleading conclusions. The overprint "Β(ΟΡΕΙΟΣ) ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ" simply reads "Northern Epirus" and says nothing about occupation.

Next, let us consider Mr. Stiles' treatment of Argyrocastro. (41)

"Argyrocastro (Silver Castle) in the Scott catalog is now Gjinokastro on the maps. When southern Albania was part of Turkey the name was Argyrocastron, or Argyrokastro. It is a tiny commercial town now within the kingdom of Albania. It was invaded by the Greeks during the first Balkan War and was subsequently ceded to Albania. Its stamps are to be found listed under Epirus (q.v.), as it was near Epirus in the former Turkish villayet of Iannina (Jannina)."

First, Argyrocastro was never "invaded" by Greece. It was, however, liberated by the Greek army, together with the other towns in Epirus. What is not generally understood is the fact that all of this territory was populated mainly by Greeks and a Christian Albanian minority who were occupied by the Ottoman Empire for many years. What is repeatedly called occupation by the Greeks, was actually the liberation of a subdued people. Finally, Argyrocastro was not "near" Epirus; it was and it is in Epirus. Argyrocastro was the first city of Epirus to overprint its Turkish stamps with Greek, and was the seat of the Provisional Government of Autonomous Epirus. These are facts which Stiles unfortunately has chosen to ignore.

Now, to quote Stiles on Chimara. (44)

"Chimara is an Albanian district in northern Epirus. (See Epirus)."

Chimara was the first town in Northern Epirus to issue its own postage stamps handstamped in Greek. It is a county and not a district! Later the regular postal issues of Greek stamps were overprinted "Hellenic Chimara" ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΧΕΙΜΑΡΡΑ and also, a special issue was printed showing the portrait of King Constantine of Greece, which should give some indication of the Greek loyalties of the Chimara population.

"Korytsa", according to Stiles, "is the present Albanian town of Korca." (45) This is true as far as it goes, but he fails to mention that it is also a county and anything of the French occupation and the stamps of the independent democracy of Ko-

rytsa as well as the overprinting of the stamps of the Autonomous Epirus.

The most usual authorities for stamp collectors are, of course, the catalogues, and here again we find misleading information. Consider, for instance, the widely respected Scott Standard Catalog. (46) It seems that some of the historical information here was copied from Stiles' book resulting in the perpetration of many of the same errors and misconceptions as well as the birth of several new ones. For instance, the provisional government of Epirus is dated at 1912-1913. Actually it was established on February 17, 1914, and as we explained earlier, it did not collapse, but the area was annexed by Greece. For unknown reasons Scotts have omitted the overprinted Turkish Occupation stamps overprinted and issued after the revolution of Autonomous Epirus in 1914, plus at Argyrocastro. There are also several stamps, recognized in some catalogues, which are not recognized by Scotts. Moreover, Scotts do not list the stamps of Chimara picturing King Constantine. Concerning the Greek overprinting of the Albanian stamps as shown in Scotts section on unrecognized regular postal issues, let it be said that many letters from Northern Epirus addressed to the Foreign Office of Greece bore these stamps. They were duly cancelled and several covers may be found today in the Greek Archives. Of all the remaining stamps "unrecognized" by Scotts, only one is actually a forgery. This is the issue of Chimara with the



Forged Stamp issue of Chimara. Produced by a forger in France.

double headed eagle. Its legend in Greek contains four odd misspellings and no one is known to have accepted it as valid. Also in this dubious section

are included the fifteen varieties issued in Moschopolis in 1914 which are accepted and listed in detail by Yvert & Tellier, as are the other stamps (seven varieties) issued in the same year at Erseka and Colonia. Covers bearing cancelled stamps of these varieties in all denominations exist in quantity and are regularly accepted as having been a legitimate issue, again by Yvert & Tellier. Scotts also omits the Korytsa handstamped issues and the overprints of the stamps of Autonomous Epirus bearing the double headed eagle and French values.

Next we shall consider the Minkus catalogue. (47) This appears to be better informed historically concerning the stamps of Epirus, and the introductory notes are adequate and basically correct. The only failure is that again, many issues are omitted, although Minkus does show the King Constantine issues of Chimara. The stamps which are pictured as "unrecognized" by Scotts are completely absent. However, Minkus has listed the stamps of Epirus as Greek occupation stamps, including those of the Autonomous Government of Epirus. Actually no stamps have been issued by Greece for the area of Epirus which could rightfully be called Occupation stamps. Even the stamps issued in 1940 with the overprint "Hellenic Administration" ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ were not occupation stamps, since they were the regular current issues of Greece simply extended in their use. Minkus lists these "occupation stamps" in his section devoted to Greece, while Scotts surprisingly has rightly classified them as "For Use in Northern Epirus" in the Greek section. The general heading is annexation and Occupation stamps, so Scotts, at least, have recognized the possibility of annexation rather than occupation.

To add to the dissension among cataloguers, Yvert & Tellier have put these stamps of 1940 in the Albanian section, Occupation Greque. It is apparent by now that a collector must search thoroughly to find certain stamps under many countries is using more than one catalogue. Lipsia has these same stamps listed under Greece, Occupation of Southern Albania. (Ausgaben für Sudalbanien).



The majority of philatelists in America do not regularly refer to the foreign catalogues, but serious collectors would be well advised to do so, and especially to obtain Yvert & Tellier which is probably the most scientific. Of the four major catalogues, Yvert has the most comprehensive listing of Epirotic stamps under EPIRE. If Yvert were to change the term "Occupation Greque" to "Annexion" on the overprinted issues from Albania to their rightful place under Epirus, this would become the finest catalogue listing of all.

In the Lipsia catalogue, (48) the introductory historical note leaves no doubt that it has been written in East Germany. The revolution resulting in the creation of the Autonomous Epirus is attributed to a dislike of the appointed king of Albania, Wilhelm of Wied, rather than to the refusal of the Epirots to become part of the Albanian nation. Since East Germany and Albania are both Soviet satellites, we can understand this sympathetic treatment and can expect certain historical distortions. If we are to overlook this matter, Lipsia gives valuable information, especially concerning first dates of issue. If used with discretion, other of the historical footnotes are accurate and the catalogue has a fairly comprehensive listing. However, the issues of Erseka, Colonia, Korytsa and Moschopolis are omitted. This catalogue which combined the Senf and Michel catalogues has been discontinued now, for it is no longer available in later editions.

On this general observation of the treatment of the Korytsa democracy under French protection may be made. All four catalogues list its stamps under the local issues of Albania. If this is correct, logically the Autonomous Epirus and Greek Annexion stamps should be listed there as well. Minkus alone comes close to accuracy by listing these stamps (within Albania) under the subhead "Republic of Korytsa," explaining that this was in eastern Epirus and with a reference to Greece and the French protectorate.

Following is a catalogue of the issues of Epirus, combining all of the best features of the major catalogues, plus some original notations:

## **THE STAMPS**

The stamps of Northern Epirus were issued during the period from 1914 to 1918. They may be roughly divided into two categories: 1) The stamps of the Free State of Autonomous Epirus and Greek annexation issues, and, 2) The stamps of French military occupation detachments in the area, including the issues of the Democracy of Korytsa. The Greek stamps used in the area during 1940 and 1941 are also included in the first group, when Northern Epirus was liberated from the Italians and Albanians for a short time.



### **1) AUTONOMOUS EPIRUS AND ANNEXATION TO GREECE ISSUES**

After the evacuation of Northern Epirus by the Greek Army was ordered by the great powers (Great Britain, France, Russia and Germany), the Greek inhabitants of the province declared their independence from the newly created "Albanian state." One of the first official acts of the Autonomous Government was to overprint the small stock of Albanian stamps which had been printed in December 1913 and which were on hand in the various post offices. As this number was insufficient, the authorities also used the unused stock of Turkish stamps remaining in Northern Epirus. It is quite interesting to note that the overprinting of the Turkish stamps is generally accepted by all postage stamp catalogues, but that the overprinting of the Albanian stamps is not even mentioned except in Scotts catalogue where it figures among the unaccepted issues. Here there is a note that six values are known, but not recognized.

### 1914 (End of January, beginning of February)

Issues of Albania circulated December 1, 1913 overprinted in black, "Epirotic Administration."

#### ΗΠΕΙΡΩΤΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ

These Albanian stamps were originally printed for the Albanian state at no expense by the Italian government's printing office in Turin.



(Left) the Albanian issue of 1913.

(Right) The Albanian issue with Greek overprint.

1. 10 Lepta on 2 Quint orange, brown and buff
2. 20 Lepta on 5 Quint green
3. 25 Lepta on 10 Quint rose red
4. 50 Lepta on 25 Quint dark blue
5. 80 Lepta on 50 Quint violet and red
6. 1 Drachme on 1 fr. deep brown

**1914 (March 2)** Issues of the Ottoman Empire (1908-1910) overprinted in black. "Autonomous Epirus." ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ

7. 5 Lepta on 10 Para emerald
8. 10 Lepta on 20 Para carmine rose
9. 20 Lepta on 1 Piastre turquoise blue
10. 25 Lepta on 1 Piastre olive green
11. 30 Lepta on 2 Para olive green
12. 40 Lepta on 2 Piastres slate black
13. 40 Lepta on 2 Piastres blue black
14. 50 Lepta on 2 Para olive
15. 80 Lepta on 2 Piastres grey black
16. 80 Lepta on 2 Piastres blue black
17. 1 Drachme on 2½ Piastres brown violet
18. 1 Drachme on 5 Piastres brown violet
19. 2 Drachmes on 2½ Piastres brown
20. 2 Drachmes on 6 Piastres violet brown
21. 5 Drachmes on 10 Piastres vermillon
22. 5 Drachmes on 25 Piastres dark green
23. 5 Drachmes on 50 Piastres red brown

†      ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ      ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ  
 ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ      ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ      ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ  
 5 ΛΕΠΤΑ 5      20 ΛΕΠΤΑ 25 ΛΕΠΤΑ  
 ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ      ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ  
 ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ      ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ  
**1 ΔΡΑΧΜΗ 2 ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ**

Overprints on Nos. 7,9,10,17-18,19-20

The type of Turkish Stamp overprinted by the  
 Government of Autonomous Epirus in  
 Greek at Argyrocastro.  
 See Nos. 7-28.



**1914 (February 10)** Handstamped temporary issue circulated in Chimara. Without gum and without perforations. Also circulated in Santi Quaranta. Several of the known issues are stamped with the initials ΣΠ (Spiro Spiromilios, Governor of Chimara). Legend: "Hellenic Autonomous Epirus, Freedom or Death, Defend your Fatherland."  
 ΕΛΛ(ΗΝΙΚΗ) ΑΥΤΟΝ(ΟΜΟΣ) ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ  
 ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ Η ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ  
 ΑΜΥΝΕΣΘΕ ΠΕΡΙ ΠΑΤΡΙΗΣ



Nos. 26, 27

- 24. 1 Lepta black and blue
- 25. 5 Lepta blue and red
- 26. 10 Lepta red and black
- 27. 25 Lepta red and blue

**1914 (March 5)** The first type of stamp issued by the Provisional Government for general use in the post offices of Northern Epirus. Printed in Kerkyra (Corfu) by Aspiotis Co. Represents Epirot volunteers of the provisional government's army at target practice.

Legend: "Epirus". ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ Perforation: 11-½.

28. 10 Lepta carmine

29. 2 Lepta deep blue

**1914 (March 26)** New values of the above issue with new legend: "Autonomous Epirus."

ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ Perforation: 11-½.



Nos. 30, 28.

30. 1 Lepton orange

31. 5 Lepta green

32. 50 Lepta brown

33. 1 Drachme violet

34. 2 Drachmes back

35. 5 Drachmes grey green

**1914 (August 24)** Issues of Greece (1911-1923) overprinted in black. Legend "Hellenic Chimara, 1914". ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΧΕΙΜΑΡΡΑ

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ  
1914 1914  
ΧΕΙΜΑΡΡΑ ΧΕΙΜΑΡΡΑ

Two types of overprint on Nos. 36-43

36. 1 Lepton green

37. 2 Lepta carmine

38. 3 Lepta vermillion

39. 5 Lepta green

40. 10 Lepta carmine

41. 20 Lepta slate

42. 25 Lepta blue

43. 50 Lepta brown violet

**1914 (August 28)** The second type of stamp issued by the Provisional Government for use in the post offices of Northern Epirus. It represents the flag of the state which is the Greek flag on which the Byzantine double eagle is placed in the center. Instead of the usual crown between the two heads of the eagle, there is a cross. Legend:

### ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ



Nos. 44, 51, 88.

- 44. 1 Lepton brown and sky blue
- 45. 5 Lepta green and sky blue
- 46. 10 Lepta rose red and sky blue
- 47. 25 Lepta dark blue and sky blue
- 48. 50 Lepta violet and sky blue
- 49. 1 Drachme carmine and sky blue
- 50. 2 Drachmes orange and sky blue
- 51. 5 Drachmes dark green and sky blue

**1914 (September)** Issues of Moschopolis. The smaller denominations show the double headed eagle (with crown between the two heads and crossed keys beneath). The large denominations depict ancient Epirotic coins and medals. Not listed in Scott, Minus, Lipsia. Listed in Yvert & Tellier.

Legend: "Epirus" ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ Perforation: 14-½.



Nos. 52, 62, 63.

- 52. 1 Lepton yellow and brown
- 53. 2 Lepta black
- 54. 3 Lepta ochre

- 55. 5 Lepta olive green
- 56. 10 Lepta red
- 57. 25 Lepta blue
- 58. 30 Lepta violet
- 59. 40 Lepta olive grey
- 60. 50 Lepta black and violet
- 61. 1 Drachme yellow brown and olive green
- 62. 2 Drachmes carmine and grey
- 63. 3 Drachmes grey and red brown
- 64. 5 Drachmes black and violet
- 65. 10 Drachmes orange and green blue
- 66. 25 Drachmes violet and black

**1914 (October)** Issues of Chimara. Portrait of King Constantine of Greece, printed in Athens by Papachrysanthou. Not listed in Yvert & Tellier and Scott. Listed in Lipsia and Minkus. Legend: "Hellenic Chimara" ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΧΕΙΜΑΡΡΑ Perforation: 11-½.



No. 70

- 67. 1 Lepton yellow green
- 68. 2 Lepta orange and brown
- 69. 5 Lepta blue
- 70. 10 Lepta orange and brown
- 71. 10 Lepta carmine
- 72. 20 Lepta carmine
- 73. 25 Lepta dark blue
- 74. 50 Lepta yellow green
- 75. 1 Drachme carmine
- 76. 2 Drachmes yellow green
- 77. 5 Drachmes orange and brown

**1914 (December)** Issues of Korytsa. Handstamp-postage stamps with the doubleheaded eagle. The value was printed with a second stamp. Not listed in Scott, Minkus, Lipsia. Accepted as valid in Yvert & Tellier. Legend: "Autonomous Epirus, Korytsa"

ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΣ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ ΚΟΡΥΤΣΑ. Perf. 11-½.

78. 5 Lepta black

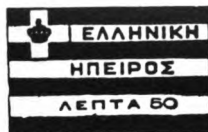
79. 10 Lepta black



No. 78

80. 25 Lepta black

**1914 (December)** Issues of Erseka and Colonia. The Greek naval flag with crown in the middle of the cross and legend on the white stripes. Not listed in Scott, Minkus, Lipsia. Listed in Yvert & Tellier. Legend: "Hellenic Epirus" ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ. No perforation.



Nos. 81, 84

81. 5 Lepta green

82. 10 Lepta red

83. 25 Lepta blue

84. 50 Lepta green

85. 1 Drachme tile red

86. 2 Drachmes blue

87. 3 Drachmes bronze

**1914 (December 25)** Korytsa. Above numbers 47, 48 overprinted in black "Korytsa" ΚΟΡΥΤΣΑ. It has been suggested that this was a local overprint. One of former officials of the Provisional Government informed me that it was overprinted as a commemorative issue for the celebration of the victory of the Epirotic Army against Wilhelm of Wied's mercenaries in the area of Korytsa.

88. 25 Lepta dark blue and sky blue

89. 50 Lepta violet and sky blue



In October 1914 the Greek army returned to Northern Epirus. The military authorities accepted the circulation of the postage stamps of the Provisional Government and also the local issues of the cities. In addition they began to circulate the regular Greek issues of the expedition of 1912, overprinted horizontally with the legend "Northern Epirus" Β(ΟΡΕΙΟΣ) ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ. In all four catalogues used in this study for reference these stamps are referred to as "Greek Occupation," "Griechisches Besetzungsgebiet," "Occupation Greque." These are false appellations for the simple reason that the type of overprinting belongs to the "annexation" form (name of the annexed province). Historically the annexation is documented by a memorandum issued to Greece and the Provisional Government in October 1914 by the Great Powers requesting Greece to re-occupy Northern Epirus and to annex the territory to Greece. Black overprinting. Perforation: 13-½.

#### B. ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ



Nos. 90, 91, 108 (Without Overprint)  
The type of the overprint is shown above.

#### 1914 (December) - 1915

- 90. 1 Lepton brown
- 91. 2 Lepta red
- 92. 2 Lepta rose
- 93. 3 Lepta orange
- 94. 5 Lepta green
- 95. 10 Lepta rose red
- 96. 20 Lepta violet
- 97. 25 Lepta pale blue
- 98. 30 Lepta grey green
- 99. 40 Lepta indigo
- 100. 50 Lepta dark blue
- 101. 1 Drachme violet brown

Note: Several denominations are known with double overprints or inverted overprints. We do not list these variations and refer to the postage stamp catalogues for these references.

**1915.** Greek issues of 1912 as above, overprinted "Northern Epirus" Β. ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ in red.

102. 1 Lepton brown

103. 2 Lepta red

104. 3 Lepta orange

105. 5 Lepta green

**1916.** Regular issues of Greece (1912-21) Engraved. Overprinted vertically in black. Legend: "Northern Epirus" Β. ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ Overprint reads up or down with the exception of the 5 Drachmes which read down only.

106. 3 Lepta vermillion

107. 30 Lepta rose carmine

108. 1 Drachme ultramarine

109. 2 Drachmes vermillion

110. 3 Drachmes carmine rose

111. 5 Drachmes ultramarine

**1916.** Regular issues of Greece (1912-21) Lithographed. Overprinted vertically in black. Legend: "Northern Epirus" Β. ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ

112. 1 Lepton green

113. 2 Lepta carmine

114. 3 Lepta vermillion

115. 5 Lepta green

116. 10 Lepta carmine

117. 20 Lepta slate

118. 25 Lepta blue

119. 30 Lepta rose

120. 40 Lepta indigo

121. 50 Lepta violet brown



**1940-1941.** Regular issues of Greece (1937-1938 overprinted in black. Legend: "Hellenic Administration" ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ Perforation: 13-½x 12 and 12x13-½.



Nos. 122, 123, 128, 137, 131, 138

- 122. 5 Lepta brown-red and blue
- 123. 10 Lepta brown-red and blue
- 124. 20 Lepta black and olive green
- 125. 40 Lepta green and grey black
- 126. 50 Lepta black and brown
- 127. 80 Lepta indigo and yellow brown
- 128. 1 Drachme green
- 129. 2 Drachmes ultramarine
- 130. 3 Drachmes red brown
- 131. 5 Drachmes red
- 132. 6 Drachmes olive brown
- 133. 7 Drachmes dark brown
- 134. 8 Drachmes deep blue
- 135. 10 Drachmes red brown
- 136. 15 Drachmes green
- 137. 25 Drachmes dark blue

**1940-1941.** Issues of Greece commemorating the erection of the bronze statue of King Constantine (1938) in Athens.

- 138. 30 Drachmes orange brown

**1941** (March 1) Regular issues of Greece overprinted in black and airmail stamps overprinted in red carmine for regular postal use. Youth issue. Legend: ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ



# ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ



Nos. 140, 139, 143, 162, 159, 163

139. 3 Drachmes silver, ultramarine, rose red
140. 5 Drachmes deep blue and black
141. 10 Drachmes orange red and black
142. 15 Drachmes deep green and black
143. 20 Drachmes dark rose red and black
144. 25 Drachmes deep blue and black
145. 30 Drachmes light purple and black
146. 50 Drachmes dark rose red and black
147. 75 Drachmes deep blue, brown and gold
148. 100 Drachmes silver, ultramarine and rose red

(Airmail stamps). Youth issues

149. 2 Drachmes orange red
150. 4 Drachmes deep green
151. 6 Drachmes dark rose red
152. 8 Drachmes deep blue
153. 16 Drachmes light purple
154. 32 Drachmes orange red
155. 45 Drachmes deep green
156. 55 Drachmes dark rose red
157. 65 Drachmes deep blue
158. 100 Drachmes light purple



No. 149

(Postal tax stamps for the social welfare fund showing Queens Olga and Sophia. Perforation 13-1/2x12).

159. 10 Lepta rose claret on pale rose
160. 50 Lepta slate blue green on greenish
161. 1 Drachme prussian blue on bluish

(Postage due stamps overprinted)

162. 50 Lepta on 25 Drachmes light rose red
163. 2 Drachmes light red
164. 5 Drachmes blue slate
165. 10 Drachmes dull green
166. 15 Drachmes brown carmine

## **FRENCH MILITARY OCCUPATION AND THE "DEMOCRACY" OF KORYTSA**

In the fall of 1916 Italy, having already signed the secret Treaty of London (April 29, 1915), sent an army to occupy Sasson, Avlon (Valona) and to occupy "temporarily" Northern Epirus. French detachments were used to occupy Korytsa and the Greek army had to withdraw completely from the new province. In Korytsa the French military authorities proclaimed the independence of the area under their protection. This was known as the "Democracy of Korytsa" which included both the city and the surrounding area known as the kaza of Korytsa. Under the direction of the French officers the Albanian comitadjes who became the authorities in this self-styled democracy ordered the overprint of the postage stamps in possession of the Korytsa post offices. The new denominations were in centimes and francs (French denominations).

### **1916**

- 167. 10 Centimes on 2 Lepta (No. 91) carmine
- 168. 10 Centimes on 2 Lepta (No. 107) rose carmine
- 169. 25 Centimes on 3 Lepta (No. 114) vermillion
- 170. 25 Centimes on 25 Lepta (No. 118) blue
- 171. 25 Centimes on 50 Lepta (No. 121) violet brown

Note: The above overprint is not accepted as official in Lipsia; is omitted in Scotts and is listed in detail in both Yvert & Tellier and Minkus. According to my information the overprint must be accepted as official and regularly issued:

**1917.** The first official issues of the "Democracy of Korytsa." These stamps were printed from plates consisting of 12 different cuts. Mistakes appear in all denominations, such as SHQIPERIE with an "accent grave" or "Accent aigue" on the second E, or VETQEVERITARE in which the second V appears inverted. Legend: "Korce, Shqiperie Vetqeveritare". Perforation: 11-½.

- 172. 1 Centime dark brown and green
- 173. 2 Centimes red and green
- 174. 3 Centimes grey green and green
- 175. 5 Centimes green and black



No. 175. The type of overprint on Nos. 167-171. No. 181.

- 176. 10 Centimes rose red and black
- 177. 25 Centimes rose red and black
- 178. 50 Centimes violet and black
- 179. 1 Franc brown and black

**1917-1918.** The same issues with a different legend: "Korce, Republika Shqipetare".

- 180. 1 Centimes dark brown and green
- 181. 2 Centimes red brown and green
- 182. 3 Centimes black and green
- 183. 5 Centimes green and black
- 184. 10 Centimes dull red and black
- 185. 50 Centimes violet and black
- 186. 1 Franc red brown and black

Note: Nos. 181 and 182 sometimes appear with the abbreviation CTM or CTS (Centimes).

**1918.** No. 183 surcharged in red with legend: "Quarku I Korces" (Local for Korytsa).

- 187. 25 Centimes on 5 Centimes green and black

QARKU

KORCES

25 CTS



The overprint of No. 187. Nos. 188.

**1918.** Type of 1917 with new legend: "Postes Qarku I Korcès" (Local Post Office Korytsa). Several errors appear in this issue. Korces without cedille under the C, Qarku with an inverted Q, Qraky instead of Qarku, Accent grave instead of Accent aigu on the E of Korcès.

- 188. 25 Centimes blue and black.

## NOTES

1. For the documentation in the present study the following catalogues have been used: Scott's, **Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 1962** vol. II, (New York 1962) Minkus, **Albania-Greece-Turkey: 1962 Stamp Catalog** (New York 1962), Yvert & Tellier, **Catalogue de Timbres-Poste 1962** Vol. II, (Paris 1962), Lipsia **Briefmarken - Katalog 1951** (Senf & Michel, Leipzig 1951) Europa.
2. A good bibliography appears in Louis Sigalos' "The Greek Claims on Northern Epirus" **Athene** (Chicago) XXIII, No. 4, pp. 39-68. See also, Edward Capps **Greece, Albania-Northern Epirus** (Chicago 1963), M. M. Spyromilios, **Greece and Albania** (in Greek) (Athens-Jannina 1962), N. J. Cassavetes et al, "Greek Northern Epirus - A Peace Conference Issue" (New York 1943), D. Michalaros, "Epirus: Land of Patriots and Heroes", in **Athene** XVIII (1957), No. 2, pp. 3-6, E. C. Despotes, "The Tragedy of Northern Epirus", in **Athene** XVIII (1957), p. 7, 40. Selasforos Soc. "North Epirus Enslaved" (Athens 1951), Anonymous "The Hellenic Character of Northern Epirus" in **Eikones tes Epirou** I (1961), No. 10-11, pp. 14-17.
3. Louis Sigalos, **ibidem**, pp. 40-41.
4. J. A. Cramer, **Description of Ancient Greece** (Oxford 1828) vol. I, p. 91. "We may consider Epirus as bounded on the north by Illyria and part of Macedonia, from the Acroceraunian mountains to the central chain of Pindus." E. Capps, **ibidem**, p. 6. "Thucydides quotes the testimony of Herodotus in the hellenicity of the region and Polybius confirms, saying that Greece begins to the south the Acroceraunian mountains that divide Northern Epirus from Albania at Khimara on the coast, Kleissura in the centre and Lake Prespa in the east."
5. The war against Turkey was declared by Greece on October 18, 1912. The Greek Army defeated the Turks at Sarantaporo in Epirus, but then operations were delayed on the Epirotic front due to the need for forces for the liberation of Macedonia. In December the major activity returned to Epirus again and the Greek Army drove the Turks into Jannina. Epirus was entirely liberated before the capital city of Jannina was finally taken by storm on March 6, 1913.
6. L. Sigalos, **ibidem**, p. 47, 50-51.
7. Leon Lamouche, **La Peninsule Balkanique** (Paris 1899) p. 226 "Les differente dialectes albanais, dont, par suite du manque complet de culture litteraire, aucun n'a acquis de preponderance sur les autres, se divisent en deux groupes principaux correspondant au deux grandes divisions ethnographiques, les

dialectes guegues, au nord, et les dialectes tosques, au sud."

8. Albanians or Arbanians were so called by the Romans and Byzantines, to identify the people living in the area of Albanon (Elbasan), one of the important control centers for the via Egnatia. They are also called Arnauts, but the national resurrection leaders prefer the name Shqipetars. Among themselves they are known as Geges, Tosks and Mirdits. Shqiperia (for Albania) and Shqipetar (for Albanian) are nationalistic "pride names" unknown to the other Balkan peoples.
9. E. A. Powell, **Undiscovered Europe**, (New York 1932), pp. 17-45.
10. Vradislav T. Savic, **South-Eastern Europe** (New York 1918) pp. 149-169, Edward Raymond Turner, **Europe 1789-1920** (London 1921) p. 459: "A second Balkan War soon followed. This struggle was directly the result of the decision of the powers not to permit Serbia, Montenegro or Greece to take territory in Albania, and this had been done because of the insistence of Austria that an Albania must be maintained."
11. Thomas Anthem, "Albania and Greece" in *Athene VI* (1945), No. I, pp. 5-7. 20.
12. A. E. Sakellariou, **Greece in World War II**, (in Greek) (New York 1944) p. 324.
13. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 55.
14. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, pp. 41-42.
15. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 41.
16. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 52.
17. See details in K. Skenderis, **Voreioiprotikos Agon 1914** (The Northern Epirotic Struggle of 1914) (In Greek, Athens 1947) and M. M. Spiromilios, **Greece and Albania** (In Greek, Athens 1962).
18. The Albanian representatives at the Paris Conference of 1919 argued that the Commander in Chief of the Northern Epirus forces was an officer of the Greek Army from Cheamarra, Colonel Dem. Doulis, and that Greeks from other provinces created the army, thereby insinuating that the revolt was executed entirely by the Greeks, a foreign force. However, the volunteer army of Northern Epirus was much larger than the volunteer groups which came to assist their brothers. This shows a preplanned and deliberate ignorance of Greek history, for it is traditional that Greeks hurry to help other Greeks as in the revolt of Crete and the recent Cypriot revolution. The chief of the Cypriot guerillasm for instance, was Digenis (General Grivas), an officer of the Greek Army from Cyprus.
19. See Appendix I of this paper for details, and the article "To Voreioipeirotikon Zetema" in the **Pan-epirotic Encyclopedia Dodona** (Vol. I, 3rd ed. 1959-60) pp. 222-228.



21. James Strachey Barnes, "Albania", **Encycl. Britt.** 12th ed. vol. 30, pp. 104-107.
22. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 55. N. J. Cassavetes, *ibidem*, p. 5
23. The Epirots have always used Albanian as a second language for trade purposes with the Albanian tribes. Even today in the official organ of the Pan-epirotic Federation of America **Epirus United** (New York) one page of each issue is written in Albanian. The Albanian language is also used for literary purposes by Epirots working for the liberation of Northern Epirus. Witness the poem "Shqipnija dhe Ipirotet" (Albania and the Epirots) by Nikolla M. Sianis in **Epirus United** No. 6 (March-April 1963) p. 6.
24. Emile Laloy, **Les Documents Secrets** (Paris 1920), pp. 134-135.
25. Stavro Skendi, **Journal of Central European Affairs** XIV (1954), pp. 146-147.
26. See notes 46 and 47 below.
27. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 58.
28. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*.
29. Harold Nicolson, **Peacemaking 1919** (London 1930) p. 173.
30. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 57.
31. See our cataloguing, stamps 167-188.
32. Edward M. House, **What Really Happened at Paris**, (New York 1921) pp. 190-194.
33. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 61.
34. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*.
35. See the account in the article "Come abbiamo occupato "Albania" in **Almanacco Italiano** XLV (1940) pp. 187-190.
36. T. M. Varini, "L' Albania in cifre" in **Almanacco Italiano** XLV (1940) pp. 191-199.
37. The Albanians accepted the speech of Count Ciano at Tirana which promised the help of Italy in the creation of a "Greater Albania" with enthusiasm (April 17, 1939). The statements were also repeated by Benito Mussolini and later by G. Bottai in a speech at Korytsa on June 14, 1939. On June 25, 1939 the field-marshal Pietro Badoglio, representing the Italian Emperor in Albania, promised "the Albanian provinces occupied by the hostile neighbors of Albania and new frontiers for "Greater Albania." As a result of these promises, 10 battalions of the regular Albanian Army plus 4 battalions of volunteers took part in the Italian attack upon Greece on October 28, 1940.

38. A. E. Sakellariou, **Greece in World War II** (in Greek New York 1944), pp. 65-84.
39. When Italy gave Albania the Yugoslavian province of Kossovo and part of Southern Epirus in April 1941, the Albanians proclaimed they "had at last secured her ethnic frontiers." According to S. Skendi *ibidem*, "after Prime Minister Tsouderos renewed the Greek claims, the effect upon the Albanian people was depressing. The hope of collaborating with the Greeks in the resistance against the Axis Powers vanished. To the fear that Kossovo would be lost to them, after an Allied victory, was added the risk of seeing Southern Albania detached. The result was a confusion benefitting the invaders." But Mr. Skendi does not explain why the Albanians did everything they could to help their German and Italian allies, and why, after the collapse of Italy in 1943, they continued to help the German army, even aiding in the capture of some of the Italians who were trying to organize a resistance to the Germans by this time.
40. L. Sigalos, *ibidem*, p. 39.
41. Kent B. Stiles, **Geography and Stamps** (New York-London 1931), pp. 136-137.
42. The handstamped issue of Korytsa issued March 19, 1914 should not be considered to be an Albanian stamp. It is inscribed "Commission de Controle Provisoire" and it was issued by the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the London Conference of 1913. Therefore it was not an Albanian stamp, nor an occupation stamp, but in a unique class by itself.
43. K. B. Stiles, *ibidem*, pp. 91-92.
44. K. B. Stiles, *ibidem*, p. 118.
45. K. B. Stiles, *ibidem*, p. 172.
46. See Scott's Vol. II, **Epirus**, Introductory note.
47. See Minkus Vol. II, **Greece - Occupation stamps: Epirus-Albania**. A special offprint of this catalogue also exists containing the listings of **Alban Greece, Turkey** (1962 edition).
48. See note 1.

## Chicago essays on World History and Politics

### Forthcoming titles

- The History of Epirus through Postage Stamps by  
Basil J. Photos  
The Greek Claims on Northern Epirus by Louis Sigalos  
Tito's Pseudomacedonia and the Albanians of Kossovo  
by Stavro Kokolari  
The Greek-Albanian Conference of 1944 for the Un-  
ion of Albania with Greece by Ath. Chrysohoou  
The Pan-Slavic Organizations and their Anti-Greek  
Propaganda by Char. Soteropoulos  
How Enver Hoxha Betrayed the Albanians of Kosso-  
vo by Stavro Kokolari  
Albania and Greece by Thomas Anthem  
Yugoslavia and Albania by Mirko Pavelich  
The Ethnography, Geography and Archaeology of  
Northern Epirus by Basil J. Photos and  
Al. N. Oikonomides  
Albanian Traitors under Italian and Communist Rule  
by Beqir Jakova

## Chicago essays on Classical Art and Archaeology

### Forthcoming titles

- The Acropolis of Athens by Al. N. Oikonomides  
The Ancient Port of Piraeus by A. A. Papagianno-  
poulos.  
Illyria by J. J. Cramer  
The Themistokles Decree by Al. N. Oikonomides  
The Ancient Fortress of Dekeleia in Attica by  
Th. Arvanitopoulou  
Postbyzantine Churches of Kastoria by  
N. Moutsopoulos  
Pella, the capital of the Macedonian Kings by  
Ph. Petsas

---

**ARGONAUT, INC., Publishers**  
**737 North Michigan Chicago, 11**